

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Supplement to  
The Colonial Newsletter

Volume 26, No.1  
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January 1986

## SOMETHING NEW -----

We are including this new Editor's Notebook supplement to The Colonial Newsletter (CNL) as an attempt to correct a longstanding problem with our publication. It has been our policy to restrict the material published in CNL to research reports and commentary on such reports in order to maintain the posture of a technical journal. This has been an overly restrictive policy in that a substantial amount of worthwhile information was omitted as a consequence. We have always attempted to avoid the appearance of a "Fanzine". (That's a magazine devoted to fanmail!)

Much of the material that appears in CNL has required several years for preparation with the result that there is no good way to present timely information within the format of our research reports. As reports and articles are assembled it is necessary to match size (number of pages), problems with illustrations, availability of time to work in the photographic darkroom, and many others with the real world objective of meeting some reasonable deadline for publication schedules. Generally speaking, we are always behind our self imposed schedule. This situation continues today and will probably continue into the future until we are able to switch over to a full Electronic Publishing capability that will include electronic digitizing and processing of photographs.

Authors of some of our longer articles often ask "when will my paper be published? ... in which

issue?" ... and many similar questions to which there is no good answer except Real Soon Now! Most of the photographs we receive of copper coins are not suitable for publication -- too dark -- etc. and must be rephotographed and reprinted to increase the contrast, or to obtain and photograph the coins ourselves, all of which requires excessive time. And still we suffer a printing disaster from time to time and produce Black Blobs instead of good looking photographs!

While the photographic problems will probably remain with us for some time to come, the problem of non-technical information (that we would not desire to permanently bind into a research journal) will, hopefully, be solved by this new Editor's Notebook supplement. It will not necessarily be included with every issue but it will be used when necessary to augment the more formal data contained within the pages of CNL.

## 1986 REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The third and fourth pages of this supplement contain our annual contribution request form plus a questionnaire. Even though you may already have made your contribution for 1986, **PLEASE** fill out the reverse questionnaire and mail it to us because there is a considerable amount of data that is important and will be helpful to ye Editor in producing a more informative CNL. Some of our Patrons desire complete anonymity -- the questionnaire

provides your opportunity to request such treatment. The CNL mailing list, by the way, is never sold or loaned out to others. All mailings to our Patrons are personally accomplished by ye Editor in order to maintain control of this information.

## PATRON'S COMPUTERS

Our Personal Computer survey indicates that somewhat more than 10% of CNL Patrons own personal computers. Most are "IBM" type, a few are "Apple" types, and there are one or two other brands and operating systems in use. Eventually CNL will be able to communicate with our Patrons or receive material for publication via floppy disks. At the moment CNL is limited to Apple II system disks containing TEXT, DIF or ASCII files. More later on this subject.

## ACCESSIONS

CNL has received a number of very nice contributions in recent months. These include cash contributions, photographs, rare books, and coinage specimens. Of the approximately 700 Connecticut Copper specimens offered to the Foundation's reference collection, we have been able to accept thirty one nice 1786 specimens and fifty three nice 1788 specimens; acceptance of additional specimens will depend to some degree on the cash contributions received during 1986 because of the IRS limitations on large single-donor contributions to public Foundations. Identification of specific donors will be made later contingent on return of our questionnaire.

## LETTERS

Ye Editor attempts to reply personally to all correspondence. Sometimes this takes awhile since CNL remains a part-time as-time-permits activity of ye Editor. More spare time is

available, today, than previously but circumstance still requires that CNL remain a part-time endeavor for another year or so when it will hopefully become a full-time activity.

## 1986 PUBLICATION PLANS

We have several excellent research papers planned for publication during 1986. These include a paper by **Gary Trudgen** "James Giles - Machin's Mills Partner?" and a 200 +/- page tome by **Philip L. Mossman** "Money of the American Colonies and Confederation: A Numismatic, Economic and Historical Correlation" plus **Bob Wester's** paper detailing his search for "Crosby - The Man". Each of these are outstanding research papers and will entail substantial cost to print and distribute, so please consider this when you make your 1986 contribution to CNL and the Foundation.

In addition, we anticipate considerable discussion from our Patrons on the subject of **Counterfeit Halfpence**. This subject was opened up by TN-101 (CNL p. 909) regarding the "reappearance of the BETTS-4 counterfeit halfpence specimen" and continued in TN-104 (CNL p. 912). This subject is generating more correspondence than any other in the history of CNL! This is really no surprise when one considers the observation of **Philip L. Mossman** in his forthcoming paper mentioned above "... I am firmly convinced that numismatists have lost sight of the fact that the most common copper of the period has been ignored by all except a few writers. The counterfeit English halfpence, imported from England, formed the bulk of the small change medium, a fact confirmed repeatedly in contemporary newspaper accounts." And -- as C. Wyllis Betts pointed out, many of these counterfeit halfpence were, in fact, minted in America!

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O.Box 4411

Huntsville, Alabama 35802

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THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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1986 Subscription to CNL  
&  
Contribution to the Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
DISREGARD  
If you have already sent  
your 1986 contribution.  
(But see questionnaire on back)  
Thanks!

JCS

"Subscription" to The Colonial Newsletter for 1986 \$ 10.00

Voluntary tax-deductible contribution to  
The Colonial Newsletter Foundation \*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(IRS Tax Number 23-7447639)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* PLEASE \*\*\*

Complete the questionnaire on the reverse side of this form.



\*\* Patrons contributing \$1000.00 or more will be identified in the  
CNL ROSTER as Benefactors of The Colonial Newsletter Foundation.

**25**

25th Anniversary  
1960 - 1985

**CNL CONFIDENTIAL PATRON INTEREST DATA**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

If you do not care to provide any of the requested information, please mark the question with an XXX.

Thank you.

JCS

1. What are your major collecting interests?  
(Massachusetts Cents, Connecticut Coppers, Fugios, etc.)
2. Are you interested in Early American paper currency?  
(Please be specific.)
3. Other related interests?  
(Numismatic books, tokens, historical research, etc.)
4. May we publish your name & address in a CNL MEMBERSHIP ROSTER?  
( Example: John Smith; Huntsville, AL) YES NO
5. May we advise other interested Patrons of your mailing address  
so that they can correspond directly with you? YES NO
6. Would you be interested in attending a CNL CONVENTION meeting  
held in conjunction with another organization? Suggestions?
7. Can you provide assistance with CNL operating functions?  
(Examples: Photographic support, Indexing, Attributing  
coins or photographs, and etc.)
8. Do you own a Personal Computer? If so, please indicate  
Brand and Model -- and are you a programmer? Please  
give details.
9. Are you familiar with electronic and optical digitizing  
techniques?
10. Are you a Dealer in numismatic materials? If so, please  
indicate the name of your business, address and business telephone  
number.
11. Please indicate your home telephone number.  
  
Area code: Number:
12. What is your major business or profession?  
(Examples: Accountant, Bus Driver, Physician, Housewife,  
Mechanical Engineer, Attorney, Retired, etc.)